The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the St. Louis Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly, free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

801-809 G St. N.W., Washington, D.C.

Entered as second-class matter, September 16, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August, 24, 1912.

VOL. 2. NO. 43 — WASHINGTON. D. C., JANUARY 25, 1913. — WHOLE NO. 95

Part A, Pf of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

UNIONS PROFITABLE.

Washington, Jan. 23.—If it were possible to lay before the membership of our labor organizations, as well as the workmen who are not members of labor organizations, the actual accomplishments of the trade unions, it would have the most astounding effect. Day after day, week after week, and month after month, from every quarter of the country comes news from local unions of their success in securing higher wages, shorter hours, advanced wage scales, and other betterments. Tucked away in the corner of a Southern paper comes a story from a small and unimportant city of what a union has accomplished in five years. The printers in Corpus Christi, Tex., organized in 1907, and as a result a wage scale of $12.50 per week for journeymen and $13 for foremen was established. The policies of the International Typographical Union were closely followed, and in that small space of time every printer in the city mentioned, together with those employed in adjacent towns, have become members of the organization. An agreement has just been entered into, which has three years to run, with an increase every six months during the entire period covered by the agreement. The increases from 1907 to 1912 scale of $12.50 a week in 1907 have secured an advance to $18 in 1912, and with the five increases provided will be receiving at the expiration of the contract $21 per week. The increase in wages for foremen, day and night machine men, will be equally attractive. In summarizing this increase it shows that the organization has secured for each member in the space of eight years a raise in wages of $8.50 per week, or $442 per year. Strikes, as a rule, do not exceed, even in high-drive unions, much over $15 per month, or $180 per year. As an investment the expenditure of $18 per year, with dividend attachment of $442, should be sufficiently attractive to induce men who are not united to seek affiliation with their fellow-workers for the purpose of collective action.

GOOD TEAM WORK.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The Virginian Railway has conceded all crafts represented by the System Federation, 2 cents per hour increase in wages. The rules and regulations outlined for future observance are satisfactory. The System Federation on the Norfolk and Western Railway has secured 6 cents per hour increase for boilermakers, 2 cents for blacksmiths' helpers, and 2 cents for all other crafts, these increases effective January 1, provided the schedule are accepted by the organizations in interest. On the Southern Railway Lines an increase of 2 cents per hour for all crafts has been secured for all employes north of Savannah and 1 cent per hour advance to all employes south of Savannah, with the exception of the boilermen, who are to receive a flat increase of 2 cents per hour over the entire line. This agreement has been secured on the Cheasapeake and Ohio on the basis of an increase of 2 cents per hour including all crafts, and affecting about 3,000 employes. Negotiations with the Atlantic Coast Line have resulted in an agreement whereby all crafts are to receive an advance of 1½ cents per hour. The betterment of conditions secured results in the main on account of the ceaseless activity of the men involved in bring about betterments. The increases chronicled in this item mount into the thousands of dollars during the life of the agreements reached. And yet the story back of this is but a mere stance of the great achievements that are being accomplished by the trade unions.

CARPENTERS MAKE GOOD.

Quincy, Ill., Jan. 25.—The strike of the carpenters against the furniture factories and shops in this city is making splendid progress. A settlement was reached during the opening period of the strike with one of the largest companies, which provided a minimum wage scale of 37½ cents per hour, with the understanding that the wage scale should remain in force until a settlement of the strike was had before the 1st of May, and to enter into progress has been made to the point where another raise has been secured, whereby the minimum wage is raised to 39 cents per hour. Further provisions in the agreements are that the union label is to be placed upon every piece of work leaving the shop, the shop being open on a strictly union shop basis. The Globe Furniture and Fixture Company is the name of the firm that proposes to, make extensive use of the union label.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

Minneapolis, Jan. 25.—At the recent meeting of the executive council of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor it practically the entire time was devoted to devising ways and means to present to the State Legislature legislation, desired by the organized movement of the State. It was decided to frame the following measures: Initiative and referendum, minimum wage law, eight-hour pay-day bill, workmen's compensation, bill to regulate payment of wages, eight hours for State employes, factory inspection bill, barber bill, bill relating to the care of tuberculosis patients, with a free dispensary, bakery sanitation bill, and a number of other measures which are necessary in the interest of the wage-earners of the State.

PLANNING TO STRIKE.

Boston, Jan. 25.—Seven local unions of the Ladies Tailors and Dressmakers' Union held a meeting recently at Faneuil Hall, for the purpose of making preliminary arrangements for a strike. Those who addressed the meeting urged that an active organization work be pushed with vigor, so that when a strike occurs demands are submitted to the employers everything will be in readiness to strike if it is necessary. The object of calling the workers in this class of trade has been largely induced by the present strike in New York, and also the effort to better conditions in this city will be eventually successful.

STRIKE AVERTED.

Boston, Jan. 25.—The strike of the Team Drivers' Union—the truck drivers—which was expected, did not occur, the reason therefor is the fact that the various employers acceded to the $3 a week wage increase and the regular hours demanded of the organization show that the men received the increase in all but four small barns. As a result of this many of the larger establishments have joined the union and over 200 men have been reinstated. The success of the strike ers has had the effect of almost completely organizing the drivers in this particular line of labor.

PASS FOUNDATION BILL.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The Rockefeller Foundation bill passed the House of Representatives on January 17. The substance it provides for a charter under authority of the government, and contains provisions exempting from taxation the property to be held in the foundation. The scheme, now involves $100,000,000, and upon the face of the programme it appears to be a scheme to evade taxation under the cloak of a charity, but supposedly devoted to humanitarian and other kindred efforts. While the bill passed the House, it has a hard time to travel in the Senate, with the chances against its passage.

BIG STRIKE.

Seattle, Jan. 25.—A general strike of all electrical workers employed by the Stone and Webster interests in the Northwest, including Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, and Bellingham, has been called. All union men have ceased work and their ranks have been augmented by many non-union men. The right to organize is the issue between the strikers and the company, and a uniform wage scale to apply in all the cities involved is another demand. The action and light complement of the cities mentioned are involved in the contest, and the strike may assume larger proportions than at present.

METAL TRADES' ACTIVITY.

Washington, Jan. 25.—President James Duncan, of the Metal Trades Department, has perfected plans whereby the International Unions affiliated with the department are to assign organizers to prosecute work under his direction. It is proposed by President O'Connell to invade the cities where large numbers of the metal trades are employed for the purpose of conducting an active organizing campaign to the end that the efforts of the department may be merged and the representatives of the several metal trades organizations work in complete unity and with but the one object in view. There will probably be ten organizers assigned, and it has been planned to open the campaign in Erie, Pa., on February 1. The local unions in the metal trades in the cities visited are to be informed of the plans and their assistance sought in the carrying out the programme as it has been briefly outlined here.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

Washington, Jan. 25.—As noted in the weekly news letter, the immigration bill passed both Houses of Congress, but owing to differences in the two bills a conference committee was appointed. The conference committee agreed upon an amended bill, and the House on the 18th Report of the conferees, but the Senate on January 20 sent the conferees' report back to conference again. The conclusions presented in the Senate against the report were based upon the contention that the powers of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor had been enlarged to that they could exercise the power of determining factor in saying when skilled employes should be imported into this country under contract. Under the present law it is provided that skilled labor, otherwise inadmissable, may be imported if labor of like kind unemployed cannot be found in this country. The objectionable feature in the conference bill "And the question of the necessity of importing such skilled labor in any particular instance may be determined by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor upon the application of any person interested, such application to be made before such importation and such determination by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to be reached after a full hearing and an investigation into the facts of the case." Another objecting is the provision requiring certificates of character from the country from which the alien is a native. It is asserted that foreign governments might inaugurate laws of this character in order to punish individuals who have been convicted of trivial offenses under the discretion of the police from securing such certificates, and that they would readily admit them to the ports of the United States. As stated, the bill was sent back to conference for the purpose of the committee instructed to insist on its disagreement.

SYRACUSE FORWARD MOVEMENT

Syracuse, N. Y., Jan. 25.—The union labor forward movement was opened in this city by a large mass meeting at which the principal speakers were President James M. Lynch of the International Typographical Union, who sounded the keynote of the purposes for which the new movement had been inaugurated, and President Gompers, who had been invited, found it impossible, owing to other pressing engagements, to be present. The meeting, however, was such an unqualified success that there is no question that the remaining meetings will produce a splendid effect in behalf of organized labor. International organizers for many of the International Unions are in the city and meetings have been arranged for the purpose of presenting labor's case to the union men and those who are eligible to the various crafts to become members. Already a splendid effect is noticeable.

BROTHERHOOD OFFICERS.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The canvassing board of the United States Congress, composed of Senators Root and Lodge, and Representatives Hamilton and Sherley, have declared the result of the last election of officers which is as follows: President, James Kirby; first vice president, Arthur Quinn; second vice president, William Hutchinson; secretary, Frank Duffy; treasurer, Thomas Neale; members of the executive board, Thomas Guerin, Daniel Post, J. E. Potts, James Ogden, Harry Blackmore, William Cole and Arthur Martel. The constitution of the Brotherhood has been amended by the referendum, and on March 1 President Kirby and Secretary Duffy will become members of the executive board. It will be remembered that William D. Huber, now President of the United Brotherhood, for ages a member of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, declined to accept the nomination for re-election to the presidency.

FORMING BIG FEDERAL UNION.

Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 25.—In anticipation of a flood of immigrants to the Pacific Coast upon the opening of the Panama Canal, organization work is being prosecuted in many places in the section noted. In this city an Industrial Union has been organized, and an active campaign is being carried on to secure a large membership, and results are highly gratifying. Charters are being solicited from the International Typographical Union, having in view the demands for a shorter working day and a minimum wage of $3 a week.

AFTER 1914 CONVENTION.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The Central Labor Union of this city has announced that it will make an effort to secure the 1914 convention of the American Federation of Labor. An active campaign will be inaugurated, the labor men pledging for the purpose of carrying out the wish of the delegates to the central body.

UNION LABELED POWDER.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 25.—Hereafter the product of the Dupont Powder Company, of Kansas City, will bear the union label. It will be remembered that an item in the Weekly News Letter recently called attention to the fact that the powder workers had organized. A contract was signed in the early part of this month, which secured for the members of the new union a reduction of hours from twelve to eight, with a wage scale for the shorter hours in excess of that received for the twelve-hour day. The scale now in force is a liberal one, and the powder workers are immensely pleased at the conditions secured for them through organization.

SULZER STILL WITH US.

Yonkers, N. Y., Jan. 25.—The strike on the Yonkers Street Railway, which has been in progress since January 1, has been settled and the men have returned to work. An agreement was in force between the railway company and the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, one provision of which is that the right of the company was to be in force at all times, and that new men could be taken upon from the waiting list. This latter provision was disregarded by the president of the company, and an agreement to that effect which was in force. Unable to secure satisfaction in this matter, the men struck the track. A city ordinance prohibited the importation of strike-breakers, and as a consequence not a car was operated during the difficulty. Efforts had been made to induce the company to recede from its position, and abide by the agreement, but they were unsuccessful. Efforts were also made to have the ordinance prohibiting the importation of strike-breakers set aside, but an ordinance was passed empowering the city government to make arrangements to take over the local lines in the municipal ownership. In the meantime, however, the matter was brought to the attention of Gov. Sulzer, who directed public service commission to take the matter up at once and invoke the law, to the end that the company be compelled to operate its cars. The commission was successful in bringing the company and its employes to an understanding, whereby the two men who were discharged were reinstated, and the agreement was returned to work. The two reinstated men manned the first car which left the car barns after the settlement had been reached.

RAILROAD CLERKS GET RAISE.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 25.—According to a report just sent out the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, in accordance with the demands of its clerks, has practically met their demands. The clerks a short time ago voted to strike if their demands for a nine-hour day and a minimum wage scale of $2.25 per day were not granted. According to the report the road has granted the general concessions aggregating 80 per cent of their demands, the increase in wages totaling more than $1 per week for each person, with a monthly minimum wage of $90 which will be fully $80 a month. Another concession is a two weeks' vacation with pay for each clerk every year. There are conditions cover every station on the system.

TELEGRAPHERS' UNION NOTES.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—The Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America is conducting an organizing campaign that is bearing fruit. This work is being carried on mainly and with the end in view of securing better conditions for the employes. Thomas Union Telegraph Company, according to a circular sent out by the organization in question, is using every effort within its power to thwart organization, and still continues to show hostility toward its employes. The officers of the union are encouraged over the progress they are working unceasingly to bring about a condition whereby it will be possible to secure increased wages and better working conditions.

FOR CONCERT OF ACTION.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in considering resolution No. 52, as amended, adopted at the Rochester convention, directed President Gompers to carry out its provisions and communicate with the officers of the State Federations in groups of States having kindred industries, with the end in view of securing legislation which will be uniform in character. Upon the formulation of this legislation it will be urged that the original drafts be sent to the President of the American Federation of Labor for perusal and advice.

JEWISH REPORTERS STRIKE.

New York, Jan. 25.—The four Jewish daily newspapers, with a combined circulation of several hundred thousand copies, are affected by a strike of the members of the Jewish Writers' Union, chartered by the International Typographical Union, having struck to enforce the demands for a shorter working day and a minimum wage of $25 a week.

ORGANIZATION DAY.

Atlanta, Jan. 25.—Monday, February 24, has been designated organizing day for the State of Georgia for the year 1913 by the Georgia State Federation of Labor. Meetings will be held on this date in every city in the State where there is a local union. Speaking will be held either in the day or at night, as the unions in each city may determine. The State Federation will provide one speaker, and the committees in each city are to arrange any additional programme they desire. The purpose of these meetings is to increase membership, to educate labor in the State to greater activity in their struggle for improved conditions.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' BOOST.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 25.—Electrical workers of this city have secured an increased wage scale without friction. Their wages have been increased from $3.50 to $4 per day, with approximately 100 members having been benefited by the raise, and all are at present employed.

ALABAMA CHANGING.

Birmingham, Jan. 25. — The Labor Advocate, in a recent issue, states that the Board of Revenue has decided to work convicts on the public roads of Jefferson County. It is further stated that on the success of working convicts on public roads depends the abolition or continuance of the present deplorable convict lease system of the State. Alabama leases a large number of convicts to the coal companies of the State for the purpose of mining. This has made it extremely difficult for the United Mine Workers to maintain an organization. The contract price for convict labor is usually secured at such a low figure as to make it impossible for free workmen to compete, and is unfair to those who seek to make a livelihood in legitimate occupations. The sentiment in this country is rapidly crystallizing against the contracting of convicts to employers, and the recent action of the Board of Revenue is indicative of that fact.

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The following is a record of a few of the disastrous wrecks which occurred on railroads within the recent past. At Lock Haven, Pa., the Buffalo Flyer ran into a broken rail, and was piled up in a landslide and derailed the entire string of cars with the exception of the rear sleeper. Engineer Smith was killed and the train who needed the attention of a physician was an express messenger, who had been thrown shaken up when his car overturned. It was a miraculous escape for all those on board, seven men were killed, two missing, and fifteen were injured recently when a freight train on the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis road attempted to recede from a train, pursued a switch near Carrollton depot, the derailed car bouncing close to the east-bound track and partially into the path of the oncoming freight train. The freight train struck the car, tearing it to splinters and ran it over. Every passenger on the car was injured, some by flying glass and splinters, while others were thrown into the aisles. Two men were injured at Hooker, Tenn., recently when a west-bound freight on the Memphis division of the Southern Railway ran into the rear of a train, pursued a switch near Chamberlain Central. A car repairer was killed and three men hurt recently at Chicago when the Rock Island mail train ran down a gang of workmen.

AGAINST WASHING MACHINES

Washington, Jan. 25.—For a number of years the Government Bureau of Engraving and Printing has been experimenting with washing machines designed to clean paper currency, but the system is not in satisfactory as predicted. The washed bills are found to be discernable from one that has not been through the process, the ink being faded on the washed bill and the paper becoming soft and yielding to the touch. It is asserted that if the washed currency is given any considerable circulation, as it will be given opportunity will be afforded for the passing of spurious money. There are clever circulars and it is contended that upon the part of the controlling spirits in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to reduce the operating expenses even though there be presented serious features with reference to the circulating medium. The currency of the United States, when crisp and new, is a work of art. Any system which would entirely destroys the artistic appearance of the bills. Efforts are being made to induce the department abandon the new laundry process.

CHARGES COLLUSION.

Washington, Jan. 25.—While testifying before the House appropriations committee recently, a former employee of the Du Pont Powder Company testified that the Du Pont Company manufactured a private packet which contained a well-packed Maxim and made frequent trips between Washington and Indian Head, the naval proving ground. It was further charged by the witness that Attorney General Wickersham through courtesy had created the Du Pont trust into a legal institution, and that the exclusive sale of all foreign smokeless powder to the United States into the hands of that company. Official of the Du Pont company characterized the charges made as a net of falsehoods.

DARROW ON TRIAL AGAIN.

Los Angeles, Jan. 25.—Clarence Darrow, acquitted a few months ago of alleged jury bribing in the McNamara case, is being tried on the charge of another charge similar to the one of which he was acquitted. It is claimed that the evidence presented at the trial of which he was acquitted will be used in the prosecution of the American Federation of Labor. An active campaign will be inaugurated by the labor forces in behalf for the purpose of carrying out the wish of the delegates to the central body.

NEW MEXICO NEWS.

Santa Fe, N. Mex., Jan. 25.—Secretary Hay, representing the New Mexico State Federation of Labor, is actively engaged in an effort to secure remedial legislation at the hands of the State Legislature now in session. As a result of his solicitation, as well as the present Legislature, is favorably disposed toward progressive labor legislation.

UNION MAN HONORED.

Harrisburg, Jan. 25.—In appreciation of the distinction won by Richard V. Farley, a Philadelphia union printer, who defeated the veteran Kerser for the State Senate, thereby becoming the first union man to sit in the upper branch of the Pennsylvania Legislature, the friends of Senator Farley, upon the recent opening of the Legislature, hastily embraced the opportunity to make the occasion a memorable one. Typographical Union, No. 2, of Philadelphia, presented the union Senator with a handsome gold fob set, and the Typographical Union of Harrisburg presented him with a floral gift. A large number of Philadelphia union men were in this city for the express purpose of doing honor to Senator Farley. The Senator has been active in the organized labor movement many years, and was a delegate to the recent National convention of the International Typographical Union. The reputation acquired by him for sterling integrity and unflinching courage is emphasized by his victory in his district. Senator Farley's election is regarded by organized labor as a victory for the political policies of the American Federation of Labor.

OHIO'S LABOR GROUP.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 25.—The executive board of the Ohio State Federation of Labor recently met in this city and outlined a vigorous campaign for labor legislation. The board discussed the bills, that will be presented, and it was agreed that the eight-hour day and compensation laws would be among the hardest fights. Employers of women will resist the first proposal and the printers will oppose the measure, as they oppose any plan that will force them to turn their business over to the State. Reports were written by the Executive Board, Talmen, Telegraphers, and Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, and resulted in a discussion relative to plans that will mean unity of action. The railroad men are working on a scheme that will stop the practice of corporations sending company men to the State capitol and working against bills that have been indorsed by the brotherhoods. The executive board of the State Federation of Labor will issue a call to all unions in the State to make the proposed legislation a special order at their various meetings and also appoint committees to wait on legislators. The prospects for success were never brighter, as the labor organization is more thoroughly united and more aggressive than ever before.

A VICTORY WON.

New York, Jan. 25.—An agreement has been signed, covering the conditions of settlement between the Waist and Skirt Manufacturers' Association and the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Up to the time of the calling of this strike by the Waist Manufacturers' Association only numbered 8 members, employing only 600 people, with only 5 per cent of the latter members of the union. After the strike was inaugurated the number of employes who joined the association, making a total of 102. According to the agreement signed 22 per cent increase in wages is given under the terms of the new agreement, and it is very likely that all manufacturers will make a demand for the responsible will become members of the association. There is some little friction during the first quarter of the agreement relative to the agreement, but it is believed that the objections will be waived, owing to the fact that the agreement is considered a fairly good one. There are 27,000 waist and shirt makers involved, and a large per cent of these have returned to work under the arrangement which has been reached with the leading of trades, in lieu of the word "agreement," as the "protocol."

PREPARING FOR STRIKE VOTE.

New York, Jan. 25.—The president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, W. S. Carter, has perfected arrangements whereby a referendum is to be immediately inated in the present situation involving the railroads of the East and the Locomotive Firemen in the wage controversy. At the same time, the firemen will be asked whether or not a strike shall take place to enforce the demands made by them for an increased wage. It is estimated that three weeks will be consumed in the event, and it is planned that the strike vote will be taken and compiled not later than February 11, when the railroad managers will be apprised of the result. All probability is that the strike vote will carry by a large majority to strike. This statement is made in view of the fact that the last referendum vote received an increase as a result of an award by an arbitration court. The firemen have been willing to arbitrate the entire issue under the provisions of the Erdman Act, but the proposal declined. It is believed that, owing to the settlement reached with the engineers, that an adjustment of these men's difficulties will be reached without a strike being made necessary.

PRESSMEN GET ADVANCE.

Erie, Pa., Jan. 25.—The Erie Pressmen and Assistants' Union has just signed contracts with the different employing printers of this city, granting an increase in wages amounting to about 20 per cent. The new agreement will run for a term of three years, the present scale places the Erie pressmen practically on the same basis with those of Buffalo and Cleveland. Negotiations during this heavy increase were not attended with any friction, the employers being satisfactory to both employes and employers. The eight-hour day is in vogue.

RETIREMENT OF LIFE SAVERS.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The Senate has passed a bill providing for the retirement of keepers and surfmen of the United States Life Saving Service. It authorizes the retirement of superintendents of districts, keepers of stations and members of crews, after thirty years' service, or on reaching the age of sixty-four years, with pay equal to 75 per cent which the attaches were receiving at the time of retirement. The bill was recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury.

RAILWAY CARMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 25.—General Secretary-Treasurer William Weeks reports that a new lodge has just been organized at Marshall, Tex., and further states that the international organization is in an extremely flourishing condition. New members are constantly being continually reported, as well as higher wage scales and other betterments.

PROGRESSIVE EMPLOYER.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The current issue of the Granite Cutters' Journal contains a communication from William J. Crawford & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y., granite dealers, addressed to James Duncan, international president. It is regrettable that the entire letter cannot be published, owing to restricted space forbids. The president of the company, who indites the communication, declares that his company has been operating on a moderate cost system since its establishment, in 1855, and asserts that these records show that with the reduction of hours from ten to nine, each individual workman has demonstrated, under the shorter day, the same conditions and the same work applying, the character and quantity of work performed were enhanced. Likewise with the reduction of hours from nine to eight, the same results were produced, the record of the year's accomplishments of the eight-hour day exceeding those of the ten-hour day. The writer also assumes that the hours can still further be reduced with profit to the employer and the employe as well, and states that the experiment of the seven-hour day in the case of each individual workman will be made by his firm for a specified time in the near future, stating that if the employers and union men work in unison in furtherance of a still shorter work day. The 44 per day at present prevailing in Granite Cutters' Union is commended as being none too high. The work of a granite cutter is exacting, and the duty exhibits a serious one, and for these reasons the shorter work day is of important concern to the granite cutter. It is, indeed, refreshing and reassuring to be permitted to contemplate the views of a broad-minded employer, which the subject of this item must be.

FALL RIVER NOTES.

Fall River, Mass., Jan. 25.—Members of the Fire Department began the enjoyment of the one day off in five that became effective January 1. The Loom Fixers' Alliance of Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton, which has unusual efforts to increase its membership and field of operation, at once outlined the Tri-city combination embraces 90 per cent of the skilled fixers, or approximately 600 members. Organizers will be put into other New England textile centers with a view of expanding this branch of the trade. The Executive Committee of the United Textile Workers of America, met recently in this city, and the organizers showed that since October, 1,000 new members have been added. In this connection it is noteworthy that the three aldermen who are trade unionists, with paid up cards. The Typographical Union has completed a new contract, carrying a scale of $25 a week for foremen, $24 for assistant foremen, $22 for linotype operators and machinists, $22 for add foremen and $18 for floor men. Contracts in all shops will be with exception of the clause covering the floor hands, which will be opened yearly. The Manufacturers' Association has also incorporated. The new scale is an increase of 2 per week, or approximately $6 per cent.

ASKS CONGRESS TO PROBE.

Indianapolis, Jan. 25.—John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers of America, in a telegram to the public purpose of gathering information relative to the Colorado coal mines, with the end in view of submitting the facts gathered to a Congressional investigating committee who are doing the work in the northern fields of Colorado have been on strike, for a long period, that is known as what is termed the Coal Trust. In fact, an effort has been made to exterminate the union in Colorado. It will be remembered that, owing to this strike, Mother Jones was imprisoned for a year ago, were sent to prison for contempt of court, it having been alleged that she violated an injunction issued out against them.

INTERPRETS STATUTE.

Springfield, Ohio, Jan. 25.—Recently an amendment to the Ohio constitution, which was adopted at the last election, was questioned as to its constitutionality, and the city solicitor has given as his opinion that this amendment, which prohibits the working of city employes more than eight hours a day in emergencies, and, further, that the statute applies to all contractors who are doing work for the city. The amendment was placed in the new constitution because the courts under the old constitution had declared illegal the right of the general assembly to establish an eight-hour workday on public work. In the event of the new amendment, if further questioned, will be tested in the courts of Ohio, the State Federation of Labor being intensely interested in establishing the eight-hour day on all public work in the State.

ASK UNIONS TO AID.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Labor organizations throughout the East are to be requested to participate in the preparation of the labor section of the woman suffrage pageant booked for March 3. It is planned to have 5,000 women workers who will march in the parade indicative of the vast body of women wage earners of the country. Plans are now in force as a means of obtaining legislation protecting them, their children and their homes. Appeals are to be made to the organized working women who are employed in the various trades and industries for the participation of the country, and arrangements to carry out this program are in progress.

PRINTERS GAIN $2 PER WEEK.

Hamilton, Ohio, Jan. 25.—The Union Printers of this city have secured an increase of $2 per week, the increase having been made effective January 1. The scale of the job printer is now $17 per week, with the eight-hour day. The local labor paper asks this illuminating question: "Wonder how much increase the nonunion printer received for his toil and labors?"

ADOPTS PROGRESSIVE MEASURE.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 25.—The State Senate has adopted the joint resolution providing for direct election of Senators, which was introduced in the House. The amendment to the Federal Constitution provides for direct election of United States Senators.